

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

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1. (previously amended) A method of inhibiting growth of cancer cells in a patient, comprising: administering to said patient an effective amount of an antagonist of STAT (signal transducer and activator of transcription) signaling, wherein said antagonist is an antagonist of STAT DNA binding.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said STAT is STAT3.

Claims 3 - 18 (cancelled)

19. (previously added) The method of claim 1, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding disrupts SH2-pY interactions.

D<sub>1</sub> 20. (previously added) The method of claim 1, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is an antibody.

21. (previously added) The method of claim 1, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide.

22. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide that binds to full-length STAT3.

23. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide that binds the SH2 domain of STAT3.

24. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide that disrupts SH2-pY interactions.

25. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 24, SEQ ID NO: 25, SEQ ID NO: 26, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 28, SEQ ID NO: 30, SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32, SEQ ID NO: 34, SEQ ID NO: 35, SEQ ID NO: 36, SEQ ID NO: 37, or SEQ ID NO: 38.

26. (withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, or SEQ ID NO: 16.

27. (withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein said antagonist of STAT DNA binding is a peptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 18, or SEQ ID NO: 19.

D<sub>1</sub> 28. (new) A method of inhibiting growth of cancer cells in a patient, comprising: administering to said patient an effective amount of an antagonist of STAT (signal transducer and activator of transcription) signaling, wherein said antagonist is an inhibitor of STAT dimerization.

29. (new) A method of inhibiting growth of cancer cells in a patient, comprising: administering to said patient an effective amount of an antagonist of STAT (signal transducer and activator of transcription) signaling, wherein said antagonist is an antagonist of SH2-pY interaction.

30. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said STAT is STAT3.

31. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said inhibitor of STAT dimerization is a peptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, or SEQ ID NO: 16

32. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein said antagonist of SH2-pY interaction is a peptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 18, or SEQ ID NO: 19.

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